

WYCOMBE CRUISE HOME AT CLAPTON

By "CHILTERN"

Clapton 2, Wycombe Wanderers 4.

THIS one-sided affair at Upton-lane put Wycombe Wanderers back on the top of the Isthmian League to make it a Happy Easter and five out of a possible six points for the Wanderers—counting last week's win at Hendon.

In one 13-minute period in the first-half Wycombe scored three goals, and they looked good enough to have doubled that tally by the interval.

But many chances were wasted, and what could well have been a massacre for the London side was turned into a reasonable defeat.

During the first-half I thought it was just going to be shooting practice for Wanderers, but after the interval the defence — with the exception of centre-half Ian Rundle, decided to make it a casual holiday outing, and Clapton, who are way down at the bottom of the table and who have scored only 41 goals all season, were allowed to come back into the game with two second-half goals.

One thing this game did was to give a bit more experience to reserve centre-forward David Glass. He had a great game, running about and passing intelligently and heading a great 20th minute goal.

He was worth his inclusion as a spearhead. He was willing to chase and challenge, and was always dangerous when dealing with a steady stream of precision crosses from Paul Bates on the right.

Maskell was unavailable, and Colin Bunting came in late. His positioning was at fault with Clapton's second goal, but for the rest he was solid.

Baker and Gale as always did what was asked of them, but at times seemed to remember everyone else was on holiday and took it easy.

It was 12 minutes before Bates opened Wycombe's account, cashing in on an atrocious back pass by Fairey.

Rundle almost put Bunting in trouble when his back pass was too gentle, but he recovered in time to clear the danger after the Wycombe goalkeeper had parried Ficken's shot.

Glass got his goal from a fine header from a clever Baker chip, and five minutes later Tony Horserman made it 3-0 with a goal from a Bates free-kick.

This was a piece of real football intelligence by Bates. A couple of minutes earlier he had scared the life out of Hill with a free kick from outside the area.

When the second one came, Hill was expecting a repeat. Bates feigned a drive and then pushed the ball through to Horserman who made no mistake.

Three-nil up at half-time Wycombe looked home and dry, but in the 52nd minute Chivers headed home from a Lee cross with the Wycombe defence in a real panic.

Bunting made a great save to a Ferdinando shot and at the other end Samuels headed against the bar.

As Wycombe's faithful band of throaty fans went through their repertoire — to which they have added "Bubbles" — Wycombe went back to work, forcing corner after corner before Gale put in one of his specials from 35 yards for Wycombe's fourth.

Three minutes before the end Chivers headed home a free-kick.